

Whereas members of the Minnesota National Guard, serving in the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division, have been a part of the State's largest troop deployment since World War II, with more than 2,600 citizen soldiers called to service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas the Minnesota National Guard has greatly contributed not only to battles but to the suppressing of violent riots, such as the 1947 national meat processors strike, in which they aided helpless police officers, and the fight against natural disasters such as the Red River flood in 1997 in which they organized search and rescue missions, helped shelter people who were left homeless, ran logistics, and helped sandbagging efforts; and

Whereas on April 17, 2006, the Minnesota National Guard will celebrate its 150th anniversary along with its historical and recent accomplishments: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) honors and congratulates the Minnesota National Guard for its spirit of dedication and service to the State of Minnesota and to the Nation on its 150th anniversary; and

(2) recognizes that the role of the National Guard, the Nation's citizen-soldier based militia, which was formed before the United States Army, has been and still is extremely important to the security and freedom of the Nation.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 371, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 371) honoring and congratulating the Minnesota National Guard on its 150th anniversary, for its spirit of dedication and service to the State of Minnesota and the Nation and recognizing that the role of the National Guard, the Nation's citizen-soldier based militia, which was formed before the United States Army, has been and still is extremely important to the security and freedom of the Nation.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statement relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 371) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

YEAR OF THE MUSEUM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 437, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 437) supporting the goals and ideals of the Year of the Museum.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise to support a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Year of the Museum. I am pleased to be joined by Senator KENNEDY and other members of the Cultural Caucus in sponsoring this resolution recognizing the vital role museums play in the fabric of our American culture.

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the American Association of Museums, we treasure the more than 16,000 museums in the United States that house many of our greatest treasures. Museums inspire curiosity in students of all ages and foster a greater understanding of the world around us. Museums help us connect to the past and envision the future. Today, we celebrate their contribution to the vitality of our communities and our culture over the past 100 years.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, today the Senate considers The Year of the Museum resolution which asks for Congress to support the goals and ideals of the Year of the Museum and asks the President to call upon Americans to observe this year with appropriate programs and activities.

I encourage citizens to utilize and support their local museums which serve as a wonderful resource for communities. There is great value for citizens in the arts, historic collections and museums. They are a reflection of our culture and people, and are important to our history and national identity. Children and young learners benefit tremendously from art programs in the schools. These activities make for well rounded citizens, tomorrow's leaders. Museums play an important role in our lives.

The Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, which I chair, held a hearing on Federal funding of museums this week and found that Federal support of the arts and humanities, which includes museums, has increased 25 percent in the last 5 years. During a time of tremendous financial challenge, we must exercise thrift and frugality with taxpayer money.

Why not hold museum and arts funding steady at current levels? I believe that budget increases for nonessential activities during a time of great challenge to our Nation are indefensible. It is Congress that holds the purse strings and, frankly, we have been unwilling to make the tough decisions today for the future well-being of our grandchildren.

As a government we have spent over \$7 billion on such programs and institutions since 2001, but where in the Constitution does it allow the Federal

Government support museums and the arts by taxing citizens to pay for museums in other cities and States? Essentially taxpayers are being forced to subsidize museums they do not attend. Museums spend \$21 for every visitor while only earning \$5.50 in revenue per visitor according to the American Association of Museums.

I remind my colleagues that the current fiscal environment of war, Katrina and Social Security and Medicare insolvency is a very serious situation. One criticism of the President I have is that he has not asked the American people to sacrifice during wartime. We cannot, as a government, do everything we would like to do. I think the American people would be very forgiving and willing to make sacrifices if only asked. During a time of war Presidents Roosevelt and Truman slashed non-defense spending by over 20 percent. It can be done.

There are several opportunities for Federal funding of museums through competitive grants administered by the Institute for Museum and Library Services and the National Science Foundation which are peer reviewed and grantees are held accountable and must meet financial management requirements as well as other conditions.

Museum earmarks, however, proliferate, especially in the home States of members of the powerful Appropriations Committee. This year 69 percent of museum earmarks went to their home States. These museums get to cut in line and skip the competitive application. Favored projects receive money without having to compete with the other museums. These projects have not had to demonstrate their merit or worth to a community, but get a cash award nonetheless. There is something wrong with this system. What's more, several museums split their earmark requests across bills in the same year to hide the true cost. The same museums request earmarks every year, and get them. Since 2001, over 860 earmarks have been handed out to museums.

I support the ideals of the Year of the Museum, but I ask my colleagues to exercise fiscal restraint and stop focusing on political expediency and start thinking about future generations.

Given the local nature of most of the grants and earmarks, it is difficult to defend the expenditure of taxpayer dollars to benefit a small group of people in Muskogee, St. Louis, or Anchorage. If a community truly wanted such an institution or program, they would and should find a way to pay for it with local and State money, or through admission fees.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 437) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 437

Whereas museums are institutions of public service and education that foster exploration, study, observation, critical thinking, contemplation, and dialogue to advance a greater public knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of history, science, the arts, and the natural world;

Whereas, according to survey data, the people of the United States view museums as one of the most important resources for educating children;

Whereas museums have a long-standing tradition of inspiring curiosity in schoolchildren that is a result of investments of more than \$1,000,000,000 and more than 18,000,000 instructional hours annually for elementary and secondary education programs in communities across the United States, creative partnerships with schools, professional development for teachers, traveling exhibits to local schools, digitization of materials for access nationwide, creation of electronic and printed educational materials that use local and State curriculum standards, and the hosting of interactive school field trips;

Whereas museums serve as community landmarks that contribute to the livability and economic vitality of communities through expanding tourism;

Whereas museums rank in the top 3 family vacation destinations, revitalize downtowns (often with signature buildings), attract relocating businesses by enhancing quality of life, provide shared community experiences and meeting places, and serve as a repository and resource for each community's unique history, culture, achievements, and values;

Whereas there are more than 16,000 museums in the United States and admission is free at more than half of these museums;

Whereas approximately 865,000,000 people visit museums annually and these people come from all ages, groups, and backgrounds;

Whereas research indicates Americans view museums as one of the most trustworthy sources of objective information and believe that authentic artifacts in history museums and historic sites are second only to their families in significance in creating a strong connection with the past;

Whereas museums enhance the public's ability to engage as citizens, through developing a deeper sense of identity and a broader judgment about the world, and by holding more than 750,000,000 objects and living specimens in the public trust to preserve and protect the cultural and natural heritage of the United States for current and future generations;

Whereas museums are increasingly entering into new partnerships with community educational institutions that include schools, universities, libraries, public broadcasting, and 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and these partnerships reach across community boundaries to provide broader impact and synergy for their community educational programs;

Whereas supporting the goals and ideals of the Year of the Museum would give Americans the opportunity to celebrate the contributions museums have made to American culture and life over the past 100 years; and

Whereas in 2006, museums of the United States are celebrating 100 years of collective contribution to our communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the goals and ideals of the Year of the Museum.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 360 which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 360) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 360) was agreed to.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 8:30 a.m., Friday, April 7. I further ask unanimous consent that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate resume consideration of S. 2454, the border security bill, with 1 hour of debate equally divided between the managers or their designees prior to the cloture vote. I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate then proceed to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to commit, as under the previous order. Further, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to cloture motions filed yesterday on the motion to commit and the underlying bill, that the mandatory quorums under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, as in executive session with respect to the cloture motions filed yesterday on nominations, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, following the 1 hour tomorrow for closing re-

marks, the Democratic leader and I will make statements prior to the cloture vote on the motion to commit. The vote will therefore occur at approximately 9:45 in the morning. If cloture is not invoked, we will proceed to a cloture vote on the underlying bill. We also have two remaining cloture votes scheduled on nominations, although we are hopeful we can work out an agreement for a vote on one of those nominations. Senators can expect a busy and full day.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 8:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 10:18 p.m., adjourned until Friday, April 7, 2006, at 8:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate April 6, 2006:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JOHN CLINT WILLIAMSON, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR WAR CRIMES ISSUES.

JOHN A. CLOUD, JR., OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

LURITA ALEXIS DOAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF GENERAL SERVICES, VICE STEPHEN A. PERRY, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

R. DAVID PAULISON, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE MICHAEL D. BROWN, RESIGNED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate Thursday, April 6, 2006:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

BENJAMIN A. POWELL, OF FLORIDA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GORDON ENGLAND, OF TEXAS, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

THE ABOVE NOMINATIONS WERE APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEES' COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on April 6, 2006 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

ROBERT M. DUNCAN, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 10, 2009, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON APRIL 4, 2005.